

Remarks

This is an amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116. The amendments and specific arguments in this amendment, to the extent they were not presented earlier, are now presented because they are necessitated by the new arguments of anticipation and obviousness set forth by the Examiner in the official action dated 30 November 2006.

Following this amendment, claims 27-48 are active in the application.

The applicant has cancelled claims 1, 3, 5, 7-16 and 17-26 and has added new claims 27-48 to claim the invention with greater specificity. The applicant respectfully submits that none of claims 27-48 is anticipated by United States patent no. 5,966,236 of Ford et al. (*Ford*) and that none of claims 27-48 is rendered obvious by the proposed combinations of Ford and United States patent no. 6,330,089 of Yamada, and Ford, Yamada and United States patent no. 5,402,259 of Lembo et al. (*Lembo*) cited in the official action.

The applicant respectfully requests that the amendments set forth above be entered and that Examiner reconsider the rejection of the rejected claims. The applicants believe that the application as now amended is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such favorable action. If any matters remain outstanding in the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the applicant attorney at (408) 553-2715 so that these matters may be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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